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Liver-Seminar

CHANCE FOR DOCTORS TO GET UPDATED ON LIVER DISEASES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Medical experts will be briefing doctors on the latest information on liver diseases and the treatment available at the "Liver Update 2001" seminar from July 9-15 in Petaling Jaya.

The biennial seminar is jointly organised by the Malaysian Liver Foundation, the Health Ministry and Malaysia Airlines.

Foundation Chairman Datuk Dr Ismail Merican said today the seminar was suitable especially for general practitioners who were the gatekeepers of public health due mostly to their role as the primary home physician.

"Doctors owe it to their patients to get constant updates as there had been too many advances in the field of liver diseases," he told a news conference here.

The week-long seminar will also see a live demonstration of "Hepatobiliary Surgery" by one of the leading experts, Prof Russell W. Strong, who is Director of Surgery at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Queensland, Australia.

Dr Ismail, who is the Health Ministry Deputy Director-General, said that a subscription dinner, to raise funds for the foundation, would be held on July 13 in conjunction with the seminar.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is the foundation's patron is expected to attend the dinner as the chief guest-of-honour.

Dr Ismail said the foundation was a non-profit organisation and hence donations were needed for its campaign to raise public awareness on liver diseases and to improve the quality of treatment and research.

"Approximately 2.5 million Malaysians are suspected to be infected with chronic hepatitis. As hepatitis is largely asymptomatic, those with the disease are unaware of their affliction and most of the time when the disease is discovered it is too late for treatment," he said.

On the dinner, Dr Ismail said table sales had been rather slow as only 30 per cent of the tables had been taken up.

Doctors interested in participating in the seminar and those who wished to attend the dinner can call the foundation at telephone No 03-4303455.

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